

S E C R E T

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FIELD INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY: USSR (Kazakh SSR)

REPORT

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SUBJECT: Polygamy in the Kazakh SSR

DATE OF

DATE OF REPORT: 31 August 1956

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REFERENCES:

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This is UNEVALUATED Information

1. Polygamy is common practice and legal among Kazakhs in the Kazakh SSR 25X1
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2. [redacted] workers in the Karaganda below surface coalmine were mostly Kazakhs. 25X1
One of them was legally married to four wives who lived with him 25X1
[redacted] Others had three or two wives, depending on their financial re- 25X1
sources.
3. ✓ Kazakh women were kept in semi-slavery. Custom required that they always walk be-
hind their husband in public places, that they leave the room when visitors were
entertained and that they could not object when being divorced and sold by their
husbands. Young Kazakh girls were often kidnapped in the streets. 25X1
[redacted] a rich Kazakh stopped his car in front of a well where a young 25X1
girl was pouring water into a bucket. He forced her into his car and disappeared.
Two days later [redacted] he had contacted the girl's father and, after some 25X1
bartering, had paid the girl's purchasing price.

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